

## **2012 PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL RETREAT RECREATION SERVICES**

Division Manager: Gwen Peterson

### **Issue #1 – Development of a RFP process for re-partnered recreation facilities.**

- Positive Impacts: Creation of a process that will provide equal access and clear process to parties interested in partnering with Parks; Consistent basic terms and agreements for each partner and the Parks; Improved management of city resources.
- Negative Impacts: This will be a stressor for current partners, communities and staff.
- Recommendations:
- *Commission Assistance: Anticipate re-partnered recreation facilities as a potential discussion item for 2012*

### **Issue #2 – Re-structuring the current senior programming and Senior Advisory Council.**

- Positive Impacts: A potential increase in the number of 50+ adults participating in recreation programming; An extended variety of programming options: engagement of a new segment of the population (boomers); Increase active lifestyles of the residents of Saint Paul
- Negative Impacts: Current senior programming participants may not embrace the initiative. Senior Advisory Board Members may not embrace or support the initiative.
- Recommendation: We use the marketing tools available to reposition 50+ adult programming and broaden overall appeal and access to adult recreation.
- *Commission Assistance: Anticipate reactions from seniors and the Senior Advisory Board. Support and advocacy of recreation opportunities for all of the residents of Saint Paul.*

### **Issue #3 - Developing a policy and set of procedures for consistently and effectively working with affiliated groups and booster clubs.**

- Positive impacts: A clear policy and set of procedures is required to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and that the City's interests are protected. It will also ensure that all support groups are managed in a consistent manner and provided the same or similar access to facilities and services at the same or similar costs.
- Negative impacts: There is likely to be some discord as we begin to establish criteria for consideration as a booster organization or an affiliated group, and work with our community partners to get them in compliance with requirements that are set up for support group operations. Most affiliated groups and booster organizations have been operating under their own set of rules for decades and have not been well-managed.
- Recommendation: Make progress where we can in 2012 and continue moving forward until a comprehensive policy and set of procedures is fully implemented.
- *Commission assistance: Support a consistent policy and procedures for managing affiliated groups and booster organizations when presented to the Commission; consider sending a representative to posted public meetings on this topic.*

## **2011 RECREATION SERVICES - ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Aquatics**

- Highland Park Aquatic Center had a grand re-opening on Saturday, June 18th with free swimming, food, door prizes, activities e.g. climbing wall, jump castle. Approximately 300 were in attendance withstanding inclement weather.
- There were 2,701 swim lesson participants. Great River Water Park had 1664 while Highland Park Aquatic Center had 1037 participants.
- Phalen Park Beach debuted as a summer lunch site for the first time
- The Instructional Sailing program increased their participants to 64 in 2011
- City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Aquatics Programs received the Governor's Award for initiative with green technology for using Sphagnum Moss as a pool filtration enhancement
- Great River Water Park partnered with the Police Athletic League to provide their 64 of their youth program participants swim lessons.

### **Citywide**

- The Citywide Team received the following grants in 2011: NRPA & Wal-Mart Foundation - \$40,000 to expand the summer food program. Viking's Children's Fund - \$22,500 to expand the summer food program. NRPA & National Boating and Fishing Foundation - \$10,000 to establish a fishing program.
- Rec Check, a free after school program, was held at 16 sites. Unduplicated participation – 1202. We partnered with 3 tutoring service providers to help Rec Check participants, who qualified, with Math and Reading.
- Provided recreation services at 22 pocket parks and housing sites through the Summer Roaming Rec program. Duplicated participation – 5277.
- Urban Tennis was held at 31 sites offering tennis lessons for six weeks during the summer. Unduplicated participation – 3000+. Urban Tennis also offered family tennis lessons and outreach at over 20 housing sites.
- Over 74,926 free meals were served during the summer (up from 68,000 in 2010).
- Over 400 children and adults participated in our Base Camp Event in August.
- Adaptive Recreation Celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing services to special needs adults and children. Face-to-face time with participants was 40,128 hours in 2011. Inclusion hours were 1073.25 hours.

### **Municipal Athletics**

- The Minnesota Twins Community Fund Grant provided the following: \$75,000 annually for programming distributed to our recreation center baseball/softball program including entry fees, equipment, apparel, etc; \$10,000 annually for renovation of a Saint Paul baseball or softball field; \$3,000 annually for Jason Kubel's Kids T-Ball program.
- Total participants in Youth athletics – 5,730. RBI Baseball and Softball Program 1500+; Basketball 600; Volleyball 630; Football 800; Fall & Indoor Soccer 1200.

- Total participants In Adult athletics – 9,870. Adult Broomball/Boot Hockey 1,800; Touch Football 170 Softball 7,500; Basketball 200; Baseball 200.
- Municipal Athletics provides the administration for employment, training, assigning and evaluation of 300 sports officials in our youth and adult athletic program.
- Friends of St. Paul Baseball is the non profit support group that generates private dollars to help support, maintain, and improve our athletic field infrastructure related to baseball and softball. Friends generated \$137,500 in 2011.

### **Recreation Programming**

- A Parks and Recreation staff member received the SPPD Chief's Award - for her work with the West Side community and involving teens in positive recreational activities as deterrent to negative behavior.
- Ward I Council Member Carter Annual Beach Party - 250 attendees - Included information booths from community partners and agencies, activities including swimming, gym games, and free food.
- President's Day visit by Senator Franken - Senator Franken visited Scheffer Recreation Center to discuss the out of school time activities and interact with the patrons. Approximately 30 community participants participated with the Senator in President's Day themed activities and lunch.
- NorthWest Como Recreation Center partnered with Chelsea Heights PTO for a grant for purchase archery equipment. The equipment is used as part of the physical education curriculum during and after school.
- An agreement has been established with Hamline University to provide interns to work at The Canvas located at Hancock Recreation Center and other recreation centers
- Implemented the Summer Blast program at Edgecumbe, Langford, and Hancock Recreation Centers; registered over 250 participants for the program
- The Canvas presented the first Winter Freeze (b-boy and b-girl competition) and Open Mike Nights and other programs.
- Over 40 volunteers helped to paint the exterior of D&C Recreation Center The Duluth and Case Booster Club volunteers coordinated the donation of paint and supplies
- Youth In Transition group received a \$15,000 Art Grant from Artist Neighborhood Partnership Initiative. Grant will be used to produce a music CD based on the songs written and performed by East Side youths
- Dayton's Bluff Fitness Center opened to the East Side bringing the total number of Parks and Recreation fitness Centers to 10.
- Wilder Wednesday - Partnering with Contender for the Faith Church to provide volunteers to serve meals to kids. The volunteers also help with after school work and other recreational programs.
- Rockin' East Side 5K Run, increased participation to over 200 runners, age ranges from youth to seniors.